

Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of call admission control for a continuous stream of data in packet switched networks including at least two local area networks that communicate with one another across a connecting network, the method comprising:

determining a packet loss rate of previous calls to a local area network;

~~determining a current packet loss rate based on said packet loss rate of previous calls; and~~

deciding, based on said packet loss rate of previous calls, whether to determine a current packet loss rate by sending a burst of trial packets from a first node in a local area network to the local area network for which the packet loss rate of previous calls was determined, or to drop a call attempt based on the current packet loss rate to that local area network.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 ~~of call admission control for a continuous stream of data in packet switched networks including at least two local area networks that communicate with one another across a connecting network, comprising the step of sending the trial packets, the method further~~ comprising:

~~determining a packet loss rate of previous calls from a first local area network to a second local area network;~~

determining from said trial packets a current packet loss rate for calls ~~from the first local area network~~ to the ~~second~~ local area network for which the packet loss rate of previous calls was determined; and

deciding whether to drop call attempt based at least in part on ~~[[the]]~~ said current packet loss rate; ~~wherein~~

~~said step of determining a current packet loss rate comprises transmitting a burst of trial data from a first node comprising a telephone in the first local area network through the connecting network to a second node comprising a telephone in the second local area network, reflecting the burst of trial data received at the second node back to the first node, and receiving the reflected burst of trial data at the first node through the connecting network, said burst of trial data comprises a plurality of packets having a size and priority that corresponds to packets that are to be sent if the call is completed;~~

~~said step of determining to drop a call attempt comprises comparing the reflected burst of trial data to the transmitted burst of trial data to determine whether transmission of a continuous stream of data can be initiated from the first node in the first local area network to the second node in the second local area network.~~

3. to 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said step of determining said current packet loss rate comprises transmitting ~~[[a]] the burst of trial [[data]] packets from a first node in the first local area network through the connecting network to a second node in the second local area network~~ for which the packet loss rate of previous calls was determined, reflecting the burst of trial ~~[[data]] packets received at [[the]] that second node back to the first node, and receiving the reflected burst of trial [[data]] packets at the first node through the connecting network.~~

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein ~~said first each said node comprises a telephone and said second node comprises a telephone.~~

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said burst of trial ~~[[data]] packets~~ comprises a plurality of packets having a size and priority that correspond to packets that are to be sent if the call is completed.

10. to 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 8~~ Claim 1, wherein ~~said burst of trial data comprises a plurality of packets having a size and priority that correspond to packets that are to be sent if the call is completed~~ step of

determining a packet loss rate of previous calls comprises the use of a gatekeeper for the local area network comprising the first node to construct an estimate of loss probability for the call attempt by using statistic about the success or failure of calls to a node in the local area network for which the packet loss rte of previous calls is being determined, said step of deciding whether to drop the call attempt being based at least in part on said estimate.

15. (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said step of determining a packet loss rate of previous calls comprises the use of a gatekeeper for the local area network comprising the first node to construct an estimate of loss probability for the call attempt by using statistics about the success or failure of calls to a node in the local area network for which the packet loss rate of previous calls is being determined, said step of deciding whether to drop the call attempt being based at least in part on said estimate.

16. (New) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deciding to drop the call attempt based on the packet loss rate of previous calls to the local area network.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein said step of deciding whether to drop the call attempt comprises use of said first node to make the decision.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 15 wherein said step of deciding whether to drop the call attempt comprises use of said first node to make the decision.

19. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein said burst of trial packets comprises a plurality of packets having a size and priority that correspond to packets that are to be sent if the call is completed.